

Chapter 15 Hearing with Charlie Dean
Regarding Discipline of Members
December 20, 2011

Present at the hearing:

Advent Church Council members present: James Cassens, Mark Dentler, Tim Heine, Ron Held, Peggy Leonhardt, Becky Schultz, Leslie Holmes, Rodney Leonhardt Jr., Marilyn Marek, Betty Louis, Rhonda Boehm, Terry Rodgers, Jimmy Cassens, Joel Vest, Ricky Boehme, and Pastor Beck.

Church Council secretary: Shirley Taloff

President of Synod Council (present as an observer): Mr. Evan Molian

Church member for whom the hearing was called: Mr. Charlie Dean

The sequences of events are as follows (recorded transcripts are not included):

- Mr. James Cassens called the meeting to order at 6:34 P.M.
- Mr. James Cassens clarified for Mr. Dean that the hearing will be recorded. Mr. Dean indicated that he was aware of this and that he is okay with the hearing being recorded.
- Mr. Heine passed out documents to the church council members (copies of various e-mails and other correspondence regarding to the hearing).
- Mr. Dean passed out additional documents. Copies were made for each church council member.
- Mr. James Cassens introduced Mr. Evan Molian from the Synod office. He explained that Mr. Molian presence is that of an observer. Mr. Molian is also available to clarify any points regarding the process and correct protocol in a Chapter 15 Hearing.
- Mr. Dean requested a public hearing. Mr. Tim Heine declined a public hearing. Mr. Cassens, as the presiding Advent Church Council President made the decision that there would NOT be a public hearing.
- Mr. Heine presented the charges as noted in the Citation to Appear.
- Mr. Dean responded to the charges.
- Pastor Beck clarified for Mr. Dean that it is the, “*accusation of censorship*” and his failure to shut down an unauthorized website that contains church member’s personal e-mails as well as other church documents that has church members upset.
- Regarding the issue of whether or not the hearing is limited to *written charges*; Mr. Molian referenced 15.01, 15.02, 15.03, 15.04, 15.05, and 15.06 in the ELCA Model Constitution for Churches. Mr. Cassens made the decision that charges could NOT be added.
- Betty Louis made the motion to sustain the charges brought against Mr. Dean as listed in the Citation to Appear. Leslie Holmes seconded. The motion was **approved**.
- Betty Louis made the motion to take disciplinary action to exclude Mr. Charlie Dean from Advent’s membership role. Peggy Leonhardt seconded. The motion was **approved**.
- At 7:25 P.M. Leslie Holmes made the motion to adjourn the hearing. Rodney Leonhardt seconded. The motion was **approved** and the meeting was adjourned.